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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development

(a) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/67/93-E/2012/79, A/67/320-E/2012/89, A/67/94-E/2012/80 and A/67/516)

(b) South-South cooperation (A/67/39 and A/67/208)

Statement by the Deputy Secretary-General

1. **Mr. Eliasson** (Deputy Secretary-General), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/67/93-E/2012/79), on recommendations with respect to the review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/67/320-E/2012/89), on analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2010 (A/67/94-E/2012/80), and on the 2011 update of the analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/67/516), said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was extremely important. It was a chance for the United Nations' system to make a difference in peoples' lives by adapting to new conditions and rising to new challenges.

2. The deadline for reaching the Millennium Development Goals was getting close, and no effort should be spared to ensure that in the three years and two and a half months before the end of 2015, the United Nations did everything it could to reach those life-saving Goals. Poverty eradication continued to be at the centre of development efforts. The Rio+20 Conference had sent a strong message on sustainable development which now demanded substantial follow-up.

3. As Committee members knew, deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda had begun with the establishment of the High-level Panel. That agenda should not be seen in isolation from the work of the United Nations for peace and security, human rights and the rule of law. All of those pursuits were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Development strengthened peace, and peace strengthened development. And both were strengthened by the rule of law and respect for human rights.

4. The United Nations development system strove to respond to the needs and priorities of developing countries as owners and drivers of their own futures. The support and guidance of Member States were essential to their success. The Secretary-General and he were counting on the Second Committee to unite around a strong resolution which would help re-energize the United Nations development system and reaffirm its essential role.

5. The global development map had evolved significantly in recent years. Nearly half of the countries which were now categorized as middle-income countries had been part of the low-income category as recently as 1995. The nature of development challenges was also changing. More and more countries recognized that the world needed to do a better job of addressing interrelated social, economic and environmental problems. Since Rio, especially, sustainable development was front and centre, United Nations operational activities had to be brought into line with that new focus.

6. At the same time, the number of new actors in development cooperation was expanding. Development cooperation was no longer the exclusive domain of States or international organizations. The development community now relied on the contributions of the private sector, foundations, academia and civil society. The United Nations had to find even better ways of joining forces with those new partners.

7. The United Nations development system had to be strong and well-funded. It needed to better integrate its normative and operational arms so that the most could be made of its expertise and services. And it needed to strengthen collaboration both within the United Nations development system and with the growing number of partners who shared its goals for development. The international community should place the problems — the fate of human beings and the planet — in the centre and then mobilize its common resources and energy to effectively deal with those problems. It had a shared responsibility.

8. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review had the potential to significantly improve the way the United Nations system delivered. In the report before the Committee, the Secretary-General had identified

six main areas for strengthening its work during the current cycle.

9. First: adapting to change. The Secretary-General would actively engage with the United Nations Development Group agencies, funds and programmes and with Member States on an inclusive process to reposition the United Nations development system for the longer term.

10. Second: revitalizing the capacity-building roles of United Nations entities. The United Nations development system needed to redouble its efforts to build national capacities. Even in the most difficult of circumstances, there was more the United Nations and the wider international community could and should do.

11. Third: reinvigorating the normative role of United Nations entities. The United Nations system had to better integrate its work to set norms and standards, and to provide policy.

12. Fourth: reforming the funding system. Long-term funding trends for the United Nations development system had been positive, but since 2008 contributions had stagnated. Many challenges remained. Going back to 1995, almost all of the growth had been in highly fragmented non-core contributions. The burden was not shared evenly among donors. And resource flows remained unpredictable.

13. The Secretary-General's report had a number of recommendations to address those problems, including requesting that the funds and programmes defined a "critical mass" of core resources; exploring the feasibility of an alternative funding model, such as a voluntary indicative scale of contributions; and proposing a high-level policy dialogue in 2014 on funding for the United Nations development system. The fifth area the Secretary-General pointed to was enhancing system-wide coherence.

14. The United Nations development system had to improve its capacity to work as one. Valuable lessons had been learned from "Delivering as one" and from intergovernmental conferences held in the pilot countries. But the final destinations were still far off and more needed to be done in order to build on what had been learned. The Secretary-General had also recommended that a "One Results Report" be generated at the country level and that a system-wide evaluation mechanism should be established to better measure the impact of the work of the United Nations development system.

15. The sixth main area was increasing efficiency and lowering transaction costs. That was a goal that programme countries shared. Significant savings could be realized by delivering common services and harmonizing business practices and operations across the system. Those efforts should be accelerated so that the agencies, funds and programmes adopted unified rules, policies and procedures for common support services.

16. The Second Committee had an important and challenging task at hand. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was a critical process for achieving results. He would even suggest that the acronym QCPR stood for Quite Critical Process for Results.

17. United Nations operational activities for development helped millions of poor people around the world. The United Nations development system owed them its best and most serious efforts. The Secretary-General and he, as well as United Nations colleagues, stood ready to support the Second Committee in every possible way. They looked to the General Assembly and the Second Committee to present a resolution that truly reflected current development problems and opportunities — and potential solutions.

18. **Mr. Zhou** Yiping (Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/67/208), said that it contained five substantive sections, including an analysis of the emerging drivers of South-South cooperation, such as a growing middle class in developing countries, the new connectivity resulting from the spread of wireless networks in developing countries, an increasing emphasis on issues of common concern requiring a unified approach, intensified interregional economic integration and the emergence of a range of regional consultative processes.

19. In examining the report, the Second Committee would be well-served to cross-reference several other reports from the Secretary-General, in particular on the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (A/67/39) and the decisions contained therein. He hoped that the deliberations of

the Second Committee would take due note of their conclusions and recommendations.

20. **Mr. Djacta** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should lead to an ambitious outcome that would determine a productive course for United Nations operational activities over the next four years. The review process should help developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and implement the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). It should not be superseded or pre-empted by any other parallel process. The universal, voluntary and grant nature, and neutrality and multilateralism of United Nations operational activities for development should be retained. Operational activities should be carried out for the benefit of recipient countries at their request and in accordance with their own policies and development priorities. He called for a strengthened global partnership for development based on the recognition of national ownership of development strategies, and for a stronger role for the United Nations on development issues.

21. The quality and quantity of development funding should be improved, especially since the imbalance between core and non-core resources had worsened. As non-core funding was unpredictable, increased transaction costs and encouraged inefficiency, incoherence and fragmentation, failure to address the issue risked impairing the effectiveness of United Nations operational activities.

22. Moreover, given the mandates of regional commissions in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, greater coherence at the regional level should be encouraged by strengthening existing United Nations regional mechanisms for horizontal coordination, and by ensuring vertical linkages between global, regional and national development and coordination architecture. Operational activities should promote national capacity-building and as part of that process, developing countries should have access to the full range of services in the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions.

23. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should, where it existed, serve as a flexible and overarching strategic framework for agency programming in order to further streamline programming instruments at the country level. Resident coordinators should carry out their duties in a fair and transparent manner and in coordination with national authorities. Innovative solutions should be explored in order to reduce excessive transaction costs for the United Nations development system, including through rationalized business practices and the use of lead agencies or common service to provide cost-effective administrative services.

24. The "Delivering as one" approach should be taken only in response to requests by interested countries and should ensure the necessary flexibility for those countries to either retain or revert to other modalities of cooperation. The Group likewise reiterated its call to continue taking concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation, and it looked forward to a quadrennial review resolution that would represent path-breaking legislation to guide the United Nations development system.

25. **Mr. Ashe** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM had frequently underscored the importance of providing adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations system, and in particular for its operational activities. Nevertheless, improvements had been negligible, engendering a host of limitations that had been exacerbated by a number of old and new challenges, most notably the protracted global and financial crises.

26. In that context, the quadrennial review should be viewed as an opportunity for Member States to engage in a thoughtful and constructive analysis of the governance, value, effectiveness and coherence of all United Nations operational activities in the field, as well as to set system-wide policy guidelines for the specialized agencies, funds and programmes. While there was no single approach to development, poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development should be the guiding principles for all operational activities.

27. The alarming imbalance between core and non-core funding had been strategically fashioned in order to suit donor countries at the expense of recipient countries. Despite the stated rationale for greater funding from non-core resources, it was fundamentally unpredictable and increased operational costs and

fragmentation. Righting that imbalance was critical in order to ensure an even-handed base of development assistance from the United Nations system and other sources that was both responsive to national priorities and free of conditionalities.

28. In addressing the development challenges of recipient countries, operational activities should take into account the need to encourage national capacity-building. The United Nations system should be instrumental in addressing long-term development challenges by ensuring the promotion and transfer of new technologies to developing countries, increasing system-wide capacity-building and enabling access to the full range of services available throughout the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions and their subregional offices.

29. Throughout the years of robust economic growth, official development assistance (ODA) levels had not met the targets to which donor countries had committed themselves. Given the current state of the global economy, ODA levels had experienced even greater setbacks, threatening basic but fundamental development goals. In that context, CARICOM wished to emphasize the importance of South-South cooperation for development that was integrated into the United Nations system, without sacrificing North-South cooperation.

30. **Mr. Errazuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the development agenda. In 2010 and 2011, contributions to United Nations operational activities totalled US$ 23 billion, representing both core and non-core resources. However, a detailed analysis of the structure of those contributions had given rise to serious concerns with respect to the predictability, coherence and multilateral management of the prevailing model. The main systemic challenge which should be addressed was the pronounced imbalance between core and non-core resources, which had grown so wide as to have decisively impacted the development agenda promoted by the United Nations. It was particularly damaging to the principle of universality and to intergovernmental governance, which should ideally form the basis for United Nations actions concerning its development pillar.

31. In 2011, core resources for development activities had totalled US$ 6.4 billion, while non-core resources had totalled US$ 16.6 billion, representing an unwelcome imbalance in favour of highly fragmented funding that diverted attention from the priorities set by programme countries. Among the multiple contributions that made up the bulk of non-core resources, single-donor and programme- and project-specific funding posed the greatest systemic and practical challenge to United Nations development activities because they were not necessarily aligned with the strategic plans agreed to in the intergovernmental process of each of the United Nations entities, were not subject to intergovernmental governance structures with respect to approval and control of each of the United Nations entities, and represented the majority of all non-core contributions to the system.

32. The quadrennial review should be a results-oriented process based on a management vision buttressed by the political will of all Member States. It must urgently address the imbalances between core and non-core resources, as well as the lack of institutional and intergovernmental governance for the majority of United Nations funds for operational activities for development, as represented by non-core resources. Lastly, it should serve the purpose of resolving important pending issues, such as the definition of critical mass and the harmonization of the cost recovery rate of non-core resources, which had remained unresolved for the past three years.

33. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of South-South cooperation but cautioned that it should not become a substitute for North-South cooperation.

34. **Mr. Le** Trung Hoai (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) said that ASEAN Member States had greatly benefited from, and highly appreciated, the assistance that had been provided to them by the United Nations. Development cooperation must be based upon the United Nations Charter, which stipulated that the key objectives of the Organization included international cooperation with a view to solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

35. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was key to initiating a dialogue on reforming governance within the United Nations development

framework and achieving more equitable geographical and gender-based representation. United Nations operational activities to promote development must remain voluntary, neutral, multilateral and flexible and must seek to promote development in accordance with countries' own development policies and priorities. ASEAN was highly concerned at the sharp decline in available resources for development activities and called upon donor countries to honour their financial commitments in that regard with a view, inter alia, to narrowing the enormous imbalance between core and non-core resources. The provision of stable and predictable funding would facilitate multi-year financing frameworks and other appropriate development modalities.

36. While priority should be accorded to States that were most in need, particularly least developed counties and landlocked developing countries, middle-income countries also required development assistance, as they faced their own particular challenges. ASEAN strongly supported efforts to reform the United Nations development system and Member States' ownership over operational activities for development was vital to that process. The United Nations should disseminate development success stories about the "Delivering as one" initiative. It was inappropriate to adopt a "one size fits all" approach; development initiatives needed to accommodate the specific characteristics and requirements of each particular country.

37. As developing countries shared many socioeconomic and geographical characteristics, the United Nations needed to more actively encourage South-South cooperation, which should complement, rather than substitute for, North-South cooperation and could facilitate expertise and resource-sharing at relatively low cost. ASEAN also urged development partners to scale up knowledge-sharing, technology transfer and peer learning.

38. **Mr. Americo Zampetti** (observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should pay due regard to the need for delivery that was results-oriented, effective, coherent and addressed cross-cutting concerns, while meeting the legitimate and growing need for transparency and accountability. One of the significant institutional achievements since the triennial comprehensive policy review had been the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It was vital that the United Nations system should address fully the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment in order to ensure that UN-Women's system-wide mandate was implemented.

39. The European Union and its member States were supportive of multilateral organizations that were efficient and effective, as evidenced by the fact that in 2010, it had collectively provided over 40 per cent of total core funding for United Nations development-related activities. It believed that all member States shared a common interest in ensuring adequate and predictable funding of the strategic plans they approved in the respective governing bodies of United Nations development agencies. To that end, it was important to engage in a more structured dialogue in the governing bodies on how that goal should be achieved.

40. On a related issue, the European Union and its member States felt strongly that core funding should not be used to subsidize earmarked funding. It hoped that the quadrennial review would address ways that the principle of full cost-recovery was adhered to throughout the United Nations system and encourage agencies to increase transparency on costs and instil a culture of cost and value awareness. The United Nations system should further strengthen and put in place robust results frameworks and results-based management systems in order to ensure that all funding was in line with those frameworks and the strategic plans agreed to by the governing bodies of United Nations development agencies.

41. Finally, the Delivering as one independent evaluation had shown that a more coherent United Nations approach at the country level had strengthened national ownership and leadership, allowing for a better alignment of national priorities, had reduced transaction costs for national Governments, and had contributed to improved coherence and effectiveness of United Nations activities at the country level. In that context, it was time that the United Nations system elaborated a new business model using standard operating procedures that would enable the effective

functioning of the "Delivering as one" principles on the ground. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should incorporate those "Delivering as one" principles.

42. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of horizontal and vertical accountability between resident coordinators and country teams, the implementation of the management and accountability framework, the streamlining of mechanisms and further harmonization and simplification of business practices in order to eliminate bottlenecks.

43. **Mr. Versegi** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said that within a changing development landscape, the United Nations system was uniquely placed to help meet the needs of developing countries through tailored support and capacity development. Nevertheless, while the United Nations had its particular strengths, it was far from perfect. Its various agencies needed to improve the performance of their development operations on the ground.

44. Several key elements contained in the Secretary-General's reports should be further expanded in the resolution. Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ) believed that delivering relevant, effective and efficient support to achieve development results in programme countries was the fundamental impetus for the further reform of the United Nations system. Results should not be an isolated issue with their own section of the resolution but rather should be integrated throughout. The resolution should also include more on the "Delivering as one" approach, and it should not be mandatory for all programme countries to adopt it. However, when a country did choose to adopt the "Delivering as one" approach, the United Nations system should be flexible enough to respond immediately and to comply fully with that request.

45. He stressed the need to institute standard operating procedures, business practices and results and reporting frameworks that afforded the flexibility needed for United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to work more coherently and effectively. The quadrennial review should also focus on bolstering the resident coordinator system, improving mutual accountability, ensuring effective gender and disability mainstreaming, and strengthening development and humanitarian operations in transition and crisis-affected countries. Most importantly, the Committee's deliberations on the item should be practical and constructive without engaging in circular policy debates that went beyond the scope of the resolution.

46. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that the least developed countries attached great importance to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and that the United Nations system should streamline its performance in order to better respond to the needs of developing countries and make headway on poverty eradication. At the same time, the United Nations Development Group should address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger when designing its overall policy direction for development over the next four years through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels.

47. His delegation was deeply concerned that despite the broadened and diversified resource base of the United Nations development system, core contributions had been declining while the imbalance between core and non-core resources had been growing. To reverse that imbalance, it would be important to analyse the lack of progress in developing and implementing the concept of a "critical mass" of core resources. He called on donor countries to substantially increase their voluntary, multi-year contributions to the core budgets of the United Nations development system.

48. The United Nations specialized agencies, funds, and programmes broaden their donor base and increase the number of donor countries and other partners making financial contributions to the implementation of their core mandates. Apart from traditional donors, the growing support being provided by developing countries in a position to do so was a welcome development. In that context, his delegation welcomed the strengthening of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and supported the Secretary-General's proposals for funding its system-wide coordination, advocacy and mainstreaming activities.

49. The UNDP Administrator should also take measures to maintain the level of annual contributions allocated to the fixed line for South-South cooperation. The lessons learned from the implementation of UNDAFs and the experience gained from some 30 "Delivering as one" pilot countries should be exploited. Moreover, United Nations entities should ensure that existing accountability mechanisms on gender equality results and gender-related resource

allocation were effective, and should encourage country teams to use gender accountability mechanisms to improve their performance at the country level.

50. Benin welcomed the existence of a burden-sharing mechanism to spread coordination costs across relevant United Nations agencies, and believed that small agencies with limited capacities should be spared an inequitable financial burden. In line with the principles of equity and fairness, funding should reflect each agency's direct involvement based on the proportion of services used, and every effort should be made to realize cost savings and keep them in the countries in which they were achieved.

51. Member States and the United Nations system should also consistently support the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to programme and developing countries in order to encourage enhanced capacity and human resource development. South-South and triangular cooperation should be strengthened and mainstreamed into regular country-level programming of operational activities. In conclusion, he said that the United Nations Development Group should take measures to simplify the UNDAF and agency-specific programming instruments, processes and reporting requirements in order to reduce the workload on national Governments and other partners and promote a better division of labour within the United Nations system at the country level.

52. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) said that the Committee's deliberations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should respect the universal, voluntary, and impartial nature of multilateral development cooperation. The negotiating process should be based on agreements reached in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in particular General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review and resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence.

53. As the Secretary-General had pointed out on numerous occasions, the development landscape had changed dramatically over the past 10 years. New centres of dynamic economic growth had emerged, while the number of institutional and non-governmental development partners had grown, notably private business. On the other hand, new challenges such as shrinking resources, global instability and energy insecurity were forcing countries to adjust their national development strategies. In that context, it was vital that multilateral cooperation should be flexible and address the concrete needs of programme countries.

54. Cost reductions and simplified, coherent agency rules and procedures would enhance the functioning of the United Nations development system. Programmes and funds should be able to preserve their mandates, organizational self-sufficiency, and the working methods of their intergovernmental governing bodies. An increase in core resources would strengthen the predictability, stability and adequacy of financing for operational activities. Lastly, South-South cooperation was growing rapidly within the framework of the comprehensive policy review. The United Nations system review should encourage that process even further through its specialized agencies and regional economic commissions.

55. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that, to remain a key agent for development, the United Nations must improve its efficiency and effectiveness by enhancing coordination and system-wide coherence. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be forward-looking, and must reflect the changes that had taken place in the development cooperation landscape. A strategic and results-oriented "One United Nations" initiative, with its positive impacts on cross-cutting issues, including gender equality, human rights and combating corruption, should be recognized as the main modality at country level. The pilot and self-starter countries had, moreover, clearly demonstrated their leadership and commitment in advancing United Nations reform.

56. The Committee needed to discuss how to ensure continued and sustainable financing for "Delivering as one" and a clearer strategic focus. United Nations leadership must be strengthened at the country level and, in particular, steps must be taken to enhance the authority of resident coordinators. Budgets should be results-oriented and each United Nations body should be held accountable for delivering results.

57. Donor policies must also be reviewed. Norway was particularly concerned that high levels of strictly earmarked non-core funding supported United Nations operational activities, increasing the fragmentation of the United Nations development system. Core funding would remain essential for operational activities.

Fragmentation of the United Nations system could not be overcome by adopting a bottom-up approach. Moreover, fair burden-sharing in the financing of United Nations operational activities was vital and emerging economies should contribute their fair share to financing United Nations development activities.

58. Gender equality and women's empowerment were important preconditions and drivers for sustainable development. Norway welcomed the system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women that had been adopted by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination: for the first time, the United Nations had a set of common tools with which to measure progress in its gender-related work. Programme countries also valued a human-rights-based approach to development on the ground.

59. **Mr. Wennubst** (Switzerland) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided a timely opportunity to agree upon a strong and relevant document that was owned by Member States and universally recognized as the key guiding document for all United Nations operational activities to promote development. To ensure its success, the outcomes of the review must be both practical and sufficiently precise so that it was not open to misinterpretation and would allow stakeholders to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

60. A well-coordinated and organized system was preferable to an inefficient, fragmented one. Harmonizing and simplifying business practices and streamlining funding modalities were ways in which Member States could reach their shared objectives. However, changes at the country level would not be sufficient to address all concerns: guidance must also be provided to United Nations agencies' headquarters to help them move in the right direction.

61. The review would also enable stakeholders to re-evaluate how the United Nations operational system responded to complex challenges, such as those faced by countries in transition or emerging from crisis. That system must be made more intelligent, flexible, coherent and effective at supporting the poor and most vulnerable. To that end, his delegation would be pleased to help facilitate the negotiations, as it had in previous years.

62. **Ms. Orozco** (El Salvador) said that in efforts to respond effectively and consistently to the needs of developing countries, operational activities for development must maintain their universal and voluntary nature, their multilateralism and their neutrality. El Salvador strongly supported the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which must achieve ambitious results. In that regard, best practices and cross-cutting issues must be afforded particular attention and a strong emphasis placed on supporting national efforts efficiently.

63. The United Nations should strengthen the role of resident coordinators, who required clearer mandates to enable them to carry out their duties more objectively. Better coordination of United Nations activities would strengthen national ownership and reduce costs for Member States.

64. The capacity of the multilateral system to provide flexible responses to the simultaneous needs of countries was being undermined by swiftly changing circumstances. In order to rise to that challenge, development activities must be allocated sufficient resources to maximize their impact on the ground and the imbalance between core and non-core resources must be addressed. United Nations specialized agencies should also take tangible steps to support South-South and triangular cooperation, which should remain complementary to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation and official development assistance. The United Nations funds and programmes must remain in middle-income countries — which stood to benefit from the Organization's expertise and technical knowledge — and play a stronger role in their development. El Salvador commended the United Nations "Delivering as one" initiative and was grateful for the assistance it had received to enable it to adopt that initiative as a "self-starter" country.

65. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) acknowledged that the United Nations had sometimes failed to deliver in previous development projects. It was hoped, however, that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would make a discernable difference in the way in which programmes were implemented on the ground. For the United Nations to more effectively help developing countries achieve their development goals, a significant increase in resources was required. United Nations operational activities should remain voluntary and grant-based, rather than profit-driven like certain other international organizations, and should address Member States' needs on the basis of national ownership. In that regard, Bangladesh voiced its support for the Accra Agenda for Action. Operational

activities should be carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own development policies and priorities; the United Nations and other stakeholders must refrain from adopting a "one size fits all" approach to development.

66. Bangladesh was dismayed at the chronic imbalance between core and non-core funding. Non-core resources were unpredictable and increased operational costs. Moreover, a shift from core to non-core funding led to fragmentation and impaired the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities. That could be corrected if more donor countries that were not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its Development Assistance Committee (DAC) became members of the United Nations funds and programmes. Bangladesh was also concerned that developing countries remained underrepresented at executive levels in United Nations bodies; an appointment system must be established that promoted inclusiveness and equitable geographical distribution among staff members at all professional grades.

67. To promote development, Bangladesh had established a number of public-private partnerships. However, such partnerships had often been unsuccessful because partners failed to uphold the principles of national ownership and leadership. The United Nations should engage in mediation in order to increase confidence and trust among development partners. Such mediation could, moreover, help to resolve core-funding issues and should be afforded due attention in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. In conclusion, he urged the United Nations development system to support programmes by Member States, especially the least developed countries, to address contemporary issues, such as climate change and the food and energy crises.

68. **Mr. Farias** (Brazil) said that the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes accounted for 63 per cent of all the activities carried out by the United Nations system. They cost more than four times the amount spent on activities such as standard-setting, policy and advocacy and almost three times as much as peacekeeping operations. To remain relevant, United Nations operational activities must be targeted where they were most needed, flexible so that they could be adapted to particular circumstances, and accountable to ensure that they remained in line with mandates agreed upon by Member States. Those activities also required adequate, predictable and non-earmarked funding so that a more appropriate balance could be struck between core and non-core resources and so that agencies, funds and programmes could more effectively meet the high expectations of the international community.

69. Member States had a collective responsibility to reform the governance of United Nations funds and programmes so as to promote more active engagement of developing countries and encourage programme countries to lead and exercise ownership, not only over individual projects, but over the management of the United Nations development system. In particular, Brazil believed that the selection process to fill key executive-level posts within the funds and programmes needed to be reviewed, and steps taken to reaffirm Member States' central role in overseeing United Nations bodies.

70. Brazil underscored the key role played by the resident coordinator system in coordinating United Nations activities at the country level. Member States must endeavour to strengthen that system and ensure its financial stability and independence. Alternative services of funding and the use of regular resources of the United Nations must be considered. Brazil was particularly concerned that, according to a report by the Joint Inspection Unit, most resident coordinators were nationals of developed countries, gender balance in appointments remained very poor, and only 33 per cent of coordinators had been recruited from outside the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Unit had also concluded that stakeholders continued to question the impartiality of the resident coordinator system. Moreover, the role of UNDP as manager of that system, and of the United Nations Development Group in support of that system, had created the perception of a conflict of interest. To avoid politicization, the development role of resident coordinators must be preserved.

71. **Mr. Yaroshevich** (Belarus) said that the changing global development landscape represented both new challenges and new opportunities which called for strategic adaptability in the near-term. In that respect, the fundamental task of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be to elaborate a strategy to bring United Nations operational activities into line with the new global realities.

72. He wished in particular to stress several elements essential to that process, including ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of operational activities, the clear delineation of the principles undergirding operational activities, correcting the imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities through a consensus on the concept of a "critical mass" of core resources, and ensuring continued support from the United Nations system to low-income countries after they had graduated to middle-income status. Assistance to middle-income countries should likewise be premised on their eventual graduation to high-income status.

73. Finally, the review should strive to integrate the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference into the United Nations agenda for the post-2015 period, with the inclusion of other parallel processes, in order to align United Nations operational activities with the national development goals of each country.

74. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that his country welcomed the strong economic growth that had occurred across the global South, but was concerned that progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals remained uneven and, as a result, certain global South countries might fail to achieve those Goals by the 2015 deadline. Malaysia remained committed to supporting South-South cooperation, which was a key mechanism for promoting development, and commended the decisions adopted by the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, including its decision to upgrade the Special Unit on South-South Cooperation so that it would enjoy the status of a full United Nations Office.

75. One of the key elements that enhanced South-South cooperation was human capacity-building. In that connection, over 25,000 participants from 140 countries had directly benefited from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. Moreover, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Malaysia was implementing a five-year South-South capacity-building programme, targeting least developed and small island developing States, to improve education and science. Malaysia has also initiated a capacity-building programme for Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries.

76. Malaysia did not wish to be viewed as an "emerging donor", but rather as a strong supporter of South-South Cooperation and of technical cooperation among developing countries, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit. It also welcomed the growing importance of triangular cooperation, under which it had organized 16 short courses in 2012 alone.

77. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) said that United Nations operational activities for development must be more coherent so that they maximized the impact of the scarce resources made available to them by Member States. Fragmentation of United Nations resources should be avoided by setting priorities and clearly defining how development should be promoted in every region. The United Nations must ensure that it did not adopt parallel development agendas, that sustainability was integrated into development activities, and the role of the Economic and Social Council as coordinating entity was strengthened.

78. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review process must have clear aims and must contribute to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). It must also promote systemic coherence, strengthen sustainable development governance, and, in that regard, must review the intermediate role that the regional commissions played between the national and international levels.

79. Middle-income countries must be provided with adequate financing for development to enable them to address the challenges they faced, including structural weaknesses, inadequate innovation and low productivity. Decisions about providing cooperation to those countries should be based on integral human development indicators, and not only per capita income, which did not fully reflect the conditions experienced by people on the ground.

80. South-South cooperation must complement more traditional cooperation between developed and developing countries. Other novel approaches, including triangular cooperation, also needed to be considered in stakeholders' efforts to promote development.

81. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) said that her country believed that fostering South-South cooperation could lead to economic growth that was more

environmentally sustainable and socially and culturally inclusive than traditional forms of cooperation. It could, moreover, help stakeholders enhance governance mechanisms. Although official development assistance had decreased as a result of the global economic and financial crises, South-South cooperation assistance had increased over the previous few years. In Haiti such cooperation had, inter alia, helped to generate renewable energy, fund social programmes to reduce poverty and child labour and deliver health services to remote areas of the country. Emerging economies had become the primary source of foreign direct investment in the country; inter alia, Haiti was benefiting from increased investment in the information technology sector and from outsourcing initiatives which, in the long-term, were expected to generate more than 100,000 jobs. South-South cooperation would become even more significant as the pace of globalization increased. Haiti was committed to deepening its partnerships with other developing countries. In that connection and in the light of its historic links with the African continent, it had requested to join the African Union as a full associate member. It hoped to engage in South-South cooperation with African countries.

82. South-South cooperation enhanced competition and market flexibility among countries of the South and, given those countries' socioeconomic similarities, facilitated the sharing of relevant skills and experiences. To further strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, efforts needed to be exerted to promote transparency, reduce bureaucratic red tape and formulate an overall guiding framework. Examples of successful South-South and triangular cooperation endeavours should also be highlighted.

83. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) said that his country aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Since the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review, considerable progress had been made vis-à-vis enhancing the coherence and functioning of the United Nations system; the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was a valuable opportunity to take action to further the effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development. The "Delivering as one" initiative had demonstrated ways in which the United Nations should seek to support national development plans and priorities. United Nations operational activities provided key resources for developing countries and Ukraine commended the fact that overall funding for those activities had more than doubled in real terms between 1995 and 2010. In 2011, however, there had been a 2.7 per cent decline in official development assistance provided by OECD countries. Ukraine urged Member States to seek ways to address the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding, and to ensure that funding flows were stable, predictable and reliable.

84. Ukraine commended the steps that had been taken by United Nations bodies to promote women's empowerment, and the excellent coordination and collaboration between the Ukrainian Government and the United Nations country and regional team in the country. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was carrying out vital work in Ukraine, particularly in relation to child health, combating HIV/AIDS and child protection and advocacy. Furthermore, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided invaluable support to the Ukrainian authorities, inter alia, in the fields of reproductive health and gender equality, and in its efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA country programmes were fully aligned with Ukraine's national programmes and goals.

85. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that United Nations development agencies should prioritize chronic poverty, focus particular efforts on removing long-term impediments to development and support policies and actions that promoted successful development. The United Nations needed to make strategic choices and reduce institutional fragmentation. Efforts must also be made to strengthen the resident coordinator system, simplify United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), rationalize and harmonize United Nations business practices, and explore innovative operational mechanisms to promote coherence and efficiency and maximize impacts.

86. Although the "Delivering as one" initiative had made some progress, an independent evaluation had indicated how much more needed to be done. Efforts must be made to dismantle parallel practices within the United Nations system and expand the scope of South-South and triangular cooperation. Major gains and rapid innovation could be achieved when partnerships were established between Governments, the private sector and civil society with a view to achieving

common goals. Despite the success of many United Nations initiatives to promote development, there had been a notable lack of progress in gender mainstreaming and no United Nations country team was on track to meet its gender mainstreaming targets. The United States of America looked forward to engaging in an in-depth dialogue on how to move forward in that critical area.

87. The United States welcomed the decision taken by United Nations bodies to adopt practices that enhanced transparency, particularly the public disclosure of audits. There was still substantial scope to improve results-based management, sharpen tools for monitoring and evaluation, and strengthen accountability. The United Nations should focus more consistently on outcomes rather than outputs and should strive to provide more compatible data to facilitate analysis. It should also promote system-wide comparability of reporting to enable its agencies, and Member States, to make informed decisions on priorities and performance. United Nations agencies were, moreover, urged to make optimal use of the resources available to them, including by improving the overall efficiency of business operations. Her delegation hoped that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be flexible enough to take into account development objectives that had not yet been fully elaborated.

88. **Mr. O'Brien** (India) said that for the United Nations development system to succeed at the global level, it needed to be firmly rooted in its core focus area, namely promoting development, with poverty eradication at the heart of the Organization's operational activities to achieve that objective. At the same time, the United Nations must strive to ensure environmental sustainability. The United Nations system needed to be flexible so that it could respond and adapt to the evolving environment and expectations of individual countries, and its activities needed to be harmonized with the budgetary and planning cycles of recipient Governments. In that connection, it was vital that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review upheld the principle of "no one size fits all".

89. For many developing countries, limited financial resources, the economic slowdown and increased programming requirements meant that achieving the Millennium Development Goals remained a formidable challenge. Efforts must therefore be made to increase official development assistance, promote investment and trade that was pro-development, facilitate developing countries' access to advanced technologies and draw up innovative mechanisms to secure reliable financing for development, including commitments by donors to scale up the financial assistance they provided over a five-year period.

90. Efforts by donors to attach conditions to the disbursement of aid had a considerable negative impact on recipient countries: United Nations operational activities for development should feed into national development plans and avoid such conditionality. National ownership and leadership, and deference to national development priorities, must remain the pivots around which the Organization's development activities were formulated and implemented. The United Nations should also focus greater efforts on promoting South-South cooperation. Such cooperation could complement, but could not, and must not, substitute or dilute Member States' obligations to support North-South cooperation. To be successful, South-South development projects must remain flexible and adaptable, and must not be subject to rigid rules or policy prescriptions.

91. Because of its size and diversity, India had gained extensive experience in nation-building and sought to share its knowledge in that area with countries from the South that were on similar socioeconomic development trajectories. It was also working closely with Brazil and South Africa on South-South cooperation initiatives. India welcomed the decision to upgrade the status of the United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. As for the need to strengthen institutional capacity-building and knowledge-sharing networks in developing countries, he noted that many of those countries could achieve much more in that area if additional financing and technology were made available to them by industrialized countries.

92. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Japan) said that the ultimate goal of United Nations operational activities was to deliver assistance to people and communities in need. To help realize that goal, adopting an approach that drew upon General Assembly resolution 66/290 on human security could promote capacity-building and empower people and communities. Tangible progress was being achieved in "Delivering as one" pilot and self-starter countries and the resident coordinator system was one of the key mechanisms for realizing the goals of the "One United Nations" initiative at the country level. In

that connection, Japan fully supported the recommendation made in the Secretary-General's report (A/67/320-E/2012/89) that the authority of the Resident Coordinator should be further strengthened.

93. While acknowledging the importance of increasing non-earmarked funding for operational activities, he said that the advantages of earmarked funding should not be underestimated. In discussions pertaining to the balance between core and non-core resources, it was important to consider the functions and impact of non-core resources on the ground, rather than merely considering aggregate figures and statistics. Japan sought to ensure that its single-donor programmes and project-specific contributions were aligned to the priorities and addressed the specific needs of each programme country.

94. Japan fully supported the view, expressed by the Secretary-General in his report, that the time had come for the Organization to transform South-South and triangular cooperation from an issue of special attention into a regular programming modality in programme countries. Japan hoped that the recently upgraded United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation would provide additional impetus to that process.

95. **Ms. Miranda** (Peru) said that her country was concerned at the continued existence of parallel development agendas and urged the Committee to ensure that all efforts and initiatives within the Organization were based on a single development agenda as reflected in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

96. The chronic imbalance between core and non-core resources available for United Nations operational activities had led to fragmentation and increased transaction costs. That imbalance should be addressed as a matter of urgency in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities in developing countries. The United Nations must adopt a holistic approach to development, based on South-South and triangular cooperation as outlined in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Nairobi Outcome Document. South-South cooperation reinforced the principles of solidarity and respect for national sovereignty, sought to address beneficiary countries' national priorities and promoted national empowerment. It should, moreover, complement rather than replace North-South cooperation or traditional official development assistance. Peru believed that middle-income countries could act as catalysts to promote South-South cooperation although their ability to do so was often limited because they continued to face challenges in such areas as poverty, inequality and climate change. The United Nations, through its funds, agencies and programmes, must also continue its support for triangular cooperation within the framework of the quadrennial comprehensive review process and, in that regard, should adopt measures to strengthen the role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

97. It would also be important to reconfigure institutional arrangements in support of South-South cooperation, as recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

In the absence of Mr. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Memo, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.00 p.m.

Item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/67/93-E/2012/79, A/67/94-E/2012/80, A/67/320-E/2012/89 and A/67/516//1)

(b) South-South cooperation (*continued*) (A/67/39) and A/67/208)

1. **Mr. Herlihy** (Ireland) said that his delegation wished to highlight four issues. First, no single country or United Nations agency could meet current development challenges. Innovative, high-quality partnership across national and organizational lines, including non-United Nations stakeholders, was key to leveraging expertise and assets. Programs such as Scaling Up Nutrition, in the area of food and nutrition security, exemplified the benefits of sharing best practice, knowledge and information.

2. Secondly, results-based evaluation was crucial for translating financial and human resources into more effective programmes. Quality evaluation at the national level would improve the ability of the United Nations to more effectively allocate resources to country needs and priorities as well as to assess the value of its contribution in the context of national development results.

3. Thirdly, system-wide accountability was paramount, particularly with respect to cross-cutting issues. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), with its toolkit for addressing gender inequality, was a good example of an approach that held the whole United Nations development system to account.

4. Lastly, affirming the strong commitment of the United Nations to countries in post-conflict situations, he said that increased cooperation among the different United Nations silos was needed to maximize the results of the Organization's contribution to development, human rights, military and political work.

5. **Mr. Sul** Kyung-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that the report of Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (A/67/320-E/2012/89) offered useful guidance for a new policy framework in advance of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and beyond.

6. It was time for the United Nations to scale up its engagement with other partners. By leveraging its comparative advantage, the Organization could play a leading role in bringing diverse players together. Greater efficiency and effectiveness would yield more value for money and help to correct the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

7. The pilot initiative "Delivering as one" was a good example of development programming that should be refined and integrated into United Nations development operations as a whole. He stressed the need for country-specific accountability, with increased coordination between resident coordinators and country teams, as well as improved business practices within United Nations agencies. A similar degree of operational partnership was needed between the United Nations and entities working in transition countries. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, adopted at the High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan in 2011, was a useful blueprint.

8. His delegation agreed with the recommendation in the report on mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the regular programming of operational activities. The Organization should make enhanced use of the knowledge of middle-income countries in the area of capacity development, and the basic principle of country ownership and transparency must be respected.

9. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that despite numerous resolutions and Conference outcomes, the developed nations were using the current global crises as a pretext to curtail their development financing, especially the delivery of core resources, to the United Nations system. Although resolutions 62/208 and 64/289 had both called on developed nations to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance (ODA), the Secretary-General's report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review made no mention of that critical commitment.

10. He reiterated Cuba's view that core resources were the cornerstone of United Nations operational activities. There was an urgent need to address the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources, without making core assistance conditional or

undermining the right of recipient countries to set their own priorities. Moreover, the fundamental characteristics of operational activities set out in General Assembly resolution 62/208, paragraph 3, must continue to be respected. The advent of South-South cooperation should not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation but rather as a complement to it within the larger international development context, in which respect for national sovereignty remained essential. Donor countries and the United Nations should also provide greater support to triangular cooperation.

11. In that regard, Cuba agreed with the Secretary-General that the resident coordinator system should be strengthened, and believed that recommendation 36 (a) (i) of the Secretary-General's report should reflect the exact language of the resolution it was quoting (namely, General Assembly resolution 62/208, para. 89). The Committee should make that responsibility rotational among representatives of the various agencies, funds and programmes in the field. A rotation system would help United Nations entities on the ground to better understand the priorities of recipient countries as well as allow them more time to mobilize appropriate resources.

12. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that as a middle-income country that had benefited from the presence of United Nations programmes on the ground, Jamaica had first-hand experience in aligning its national development priorities with the United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF). He stressed the need for predictable, stable, long-term funding for the operational activities of the United Nations, in particular with respect to core funding, which had decreased in recent years. The growing imbalance between core and non-core funding also needed to be addressed and the universal, voluntary, grant and multilateral nature of United Nations operational activities must be maintained.

13. In this context, there should not be a rush towards adopting "Delivering as one" as the primary mechanism for United Nations development engagement. Rather, the focus should be on determining the best model for each country. While South-South cooperation had become a key element in the overall development context, it should be viewed as complementary to rather than a substitute for traditional development work, including triangular cooperation.

14. Jamaica supported the decision of the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to transform the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation into the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

15. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that with 1.4 billion people still living under the threat of poverty and hunger, the primary goal of United Nations development activities should be the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The uneven resource structure and the fragmentation of resources had seriously undermined the effective operation of the United Nations development system and its agencies. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should adopt a two-pronged approach, increasing the overall amount of core donation and improving the quality of non-core resources. It should also emphasize the importance of capacity-building. Developed countries needed to deliver on their commitments to provide increased assistance, particularly with respect to the least developed countries as set forth in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

16. While adjustments might be needed and efficiency could be improved, reform was not an end in itself. In assessing the impact of "Delivering as one", the United Nations development system should not impose a single modality but rather draw on the experience of the pilot countries in order to better tailor its assistance going forward.

17. In that context, South-South cooperation was a valuable avenue for leveraging the comparative advantages of developing countries, but should not take away from the leading role of North-South cooperation.

18. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco) said that changes in the global development landscape since the last review and the impact of the world economic food crises on developing countries posed new challenges. With the Millennium Development Goals a few years away, the United Nations development system needed to scale up efforts to ensure that the countries of the South were able to reduce their remaining inequalities and to improve access to basic services. In order to further the goals of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), United Nations development agencies should do more to help countries integrate their economic, social and environmental agendas to offer a genuine model of sustainable development.

Priority should be given to the poorest regions. Since, according to the Secretary-General's report, by 2025 more than 80 per cent of the world's poor would live in Africa (A/67/320, para. 9), the United Nations should scale up its development aid to African nations.

19. Particular attention should be focused on countries in transition to democracy, which needed sufficient support to respond to their people's demands and to implement their programmes for reform and economic recovery. Support must also be provided to middle-income countries based on their development priorities.

20. Despite an overall increase in assistance available for development, core support had declined from 53 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent in 2010. The United Nations would be unable to achieve its goals or accomplish its mission so long as the gap between core and non-core sources persisted. The challenges were overwhelming. The United Nations must ensure reliable and predictable funding for operational activities, preserve their neutrality, streamline and simplify its procedures, and help build the national capacity of beneficiary countries to deal with poverty, food security, climate change and education and gender issues.

21. On the other hand, South-South and triangular cooperation had become important components of international cooperation. The presence on the ground of the United Nations system was an asset that should help developing countries to maximize the benefits of such initiatives and partnerships.

22. **Mr. Hoxha** (Albania) said that in order for the United Nations to retain its predominant place in international development, it needed to improve coordination and eliminate fragmentation at the country level. As one of the eight pilot countries in the "Delivering as one" initiative, Albania had first-hand experience with that programme's attempt to remedy the level and quality of country-specific assistance while also improving the impact of the United Nations development system as a whole.

23. "Delivering as one" provided an opportunity to test a new mechanism that delegated and decentralized power in the areas of development planning, programming and implementation. There were now four times as many countries in "Delivering as one", representing a wide array of Member States.

24. After five years, it was clear from both internal and independent evaluations that the programme could and should be applied across the board. The experimental phase had been a success and should now become a standard part of the development toolkit, available to any country on request, as recommended in the outcome document of the Fifth High-level Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering as One, held in Tirana in June. Consequently, full implementation of the management and accountability system should no longer be viewed as a means of strengthening the role of the resident coordinators.

25. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that as the United Nations shaped the post-2015 development agenda, it needed to assess not just the growing challenges but also the opportunities for meeting them. He noted in particular the multiplicity of development actors and the global proliferation of technology, whose transformative impact would be vast.

26. As a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and on field trips to specific regions, including the Horn of Africa, Israel had acquired first-hand experience in the issues and structural challenges facing those agencies at both the country level and system-wide.

27. Based on that experience and as it prepared to join the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2013, Israel wished to recommend that the United Nations should emphasize its results and impact by investing more in evaluation and reporting, as well as by introducing common criteria for results-reporting across agencies. The pilot initiative "Delivering as one" had proven its effectiveness as a tool for addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and child mortality within country-specific programmes. However, its impact would be enhanced if the problem of vertical accountability in programme countries were addressed by incorporating the modality of working "as one" into United Nations engagement at the country level, including the identification of sustainable funding.

28. The resident coordinator system of such programmes was similarly limited by separate agency lines of accountability and the voluntary nature of the coordination function. The role of resident coordinators

should be strengthened and expanded to include enhanced coordination with programme countries, the donor community and actors in the area of disaster relief. Country teams had also indicated the need for a better firewall between the resident coordinator's role as a representative of both UNDP and the Secretary-General.

29. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that while it was important to accelerate global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the Committee should also look beyond that deadline to make appropriate adjustments to the development agenda for the future.

30. Better alignment of United Nations development activities with national priorities continued to be critical to programme success. In that connection, Thailand welcomed the new United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as an important and long-overdue step towards strengthening the role of the United Nations in promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation; the Office should be endowed with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate. His delegation was also pleased that South-South cooperation had been incorporated into the United Nations Partnership Framework for Thailand 2012-2016. As new supportive mechanisms became available, it was important to ensure that the United Nations development system would be ready to make full use of them.

31. **Mr. Le** Hoai Trung (Viet Nam) said that Viet Nam had been one of the original eight countries in the pilot "Delivering as one" initiative, which had built on the "One United Nations" programme already in place in his country during its period of post-war reconstruction and reform. Recognizing the comparative advantage of United Nations organizations, Viet Nam had incorporated the strongest features of both "One United Nations" and "Delivering as one" into its development framework as a means for achieving maximum results from both internal and external resources. Greater coordination and harmonization of United Nations development cooperation activities would further improve effectiveness.

32. Among the measures already implemented were a One Plan Fund to facilitate the mobilization of unearmarked and multi-year funding, enhanced responsibility for the resident coordinator, one set of management practices, and plans to build a green One UN House. In order to promote Government ownership and enhance the relevance of United Nations agencies, especially the country team, sufficient resources were needed to ensure results commensurate with the efforts Viet Nam and its development partners had invested in strategic planning.

33. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that although there had been positive overall shifts in the development landscape, the least developed countries had been hardest hit by the multiple global crises, in particular by the impact of climate change. Although millions of people had moved out of poverty, close to 1 billion worldwide were still malnourished, and the absolute number of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa had actually increased over the past two decades. To meet growing demand, it was critical for United Nations operational development activities to become more flexible and more responsive.

34. The unprecedented imbalance between core and non-core resources had compromised the predictability and sustainability of development assistance and its alignment with national priorities. The short-term nature of non-core resources, as well as earmarking and donor-specific procedures, had aggravated the fragmentation of resources and increased transaction costs.

35. Progress in that regard was stymied by different financing, reporting and evaluation procedures across agencies, funds and programmes, and by existing rules and regulations at Headquarters. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to address such challenges with specific remedies. Rebalancing core and non-core resources as well as improving the quality of non-core resources by easing earmarking and harmonizing requirements were fundamental steps that would not only improve delivery at the country level but would enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations role in international development.

36. Other urgent measures included strengthening the resident coordinator system; unifying software, fund release procedures and monitoring and evaluation approaches at Headquarters; reforming system governance; and assessing both the vertical and horizontal delegation of authority and decision-making to the country offices.

37. Ethiopia, one of the countries that had volunteered for "Delivering as one", had fully aligned its Growth and Transformation Plan with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in an effort to succeed in the fight to eradicate poverty.

38. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that the global development cooperation landscape had changed dramatically since the last comprehensive policy review of operational activities (2007). Accordingly, the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was useful, as it contained recommendations for enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations development system. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction that contributions to United Nations operational activities for development had grown faster over the last 15 years than total official development assistance (ODA). He hoped that core resources would be provided on a more predictable basis.

39. The "Delivering as one" initiative had made the development partnership between the United Nations and Mozambique more productive, including by encouraging joint programmes and inter-agency coordination, which had helped in tackling challenges in such areas as social protection, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, food security and disaster risk reduction. The role of resident coordinators should be further strengthened, in line with the findings of the independent evaluation of "Delivering as one", in order to increase efficiency at country level. He noted with satisfaction the conclusion of the evaluation that "Delivering as one" had strengthened national ownership in United Nations system operational activities.

40. As the "Delivering as one" initiative had met the objectives for which it had been established, he expected the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to agree with the independent evaluation that the initiative should be continued and that it should now focus on results and relevance. Monitoring and recording results, developing capacity, and policy support should be the priorities for the second generation of "Delivering as one".

41. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity among countries based on their shared experiences and objectives. Development cooperation had changed significantly in recent years, creating challenges for all stakeholders, especially developing countries, and making United Nations operational activities for development very important at the current juncture.

42. There were now a multiplicity of traditional and non-traditional donors with different approaches to cooperation for development. Mozambique generally viewed partners with reference to the conventional categories of North-South and South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation. Those types of cooperation were complementary; in some cases, different donors had implemented specific projects collectively. For example, Mozambique was implementing a rural and agricultural development project in conjunction with the non-traditional donor Brazil, which was providing know-how and technology, and the traditional donor Japan, which was providing financial and technical resources.

43. **Mr. Zan** (Myanmar) commended the United Nations development system for its support for national development and the immense and broad contribution of the United Nations operational activities for development. While acknowledging the comparative advantages of the various United Nations development entities, he said that national ownership of the development process should remain a guiding principle of operational activities, which should be carried out at the request of the recipient countries and in accordance with their development policies and priorities.

44. Improving the development system's resource situation was a central concern. Without adequate financial support, little could be done to promote development or enhance the efficiency and accountability of the development system. With resources in serious decline, Myanmar urged donor countries to honour their financial assistance commitments.

45. Despite being listed among the least developed countries, Myanmar had been deprived of a normal UNDP country programme for the preceding 20 years and had therefore not fully benefited from United Nations operational activities. According to World Bank data, Myanmar had received only $7 per capita in official development assistance in 2010, compared with $34 for Viet Nam, $52 for Cambodia and $67 for the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Consequently, it required a substantial increase in assistance to make up for lost time, particularly given its transition towards

democracy and urgent need for assistance in human resource development and capacity-building of public institutions to implement the reform process.

46. Its reforms to date had already prompted donor countries to change their policies towards the country and ease restrictions, paving the way for the development system and international financial institutions to resume development assistance. Myanmar hoped that the United Nations would increase and broaden assistance to facilitate the reform process and improve the socioeconomic situation of the people of Myanmar, in full consultation with the Government and its development partners.

47. Myanmar welcomed the decision of the UNDP Executive Board in June 2012 to resume the normal country programme process for Myanmar for 2013-2015. It looked forward to greater United Nations assistance in addressing its national priorities, including the national census to be conducted in 2014, the fight against narcotic drugs, poverty reduction, disaster risk management and good governance. It also looked forward to the added impetus of a complete lifting of remaining restrictions, which impeded trade, investment and aid. Lastly, he stressed the importance of enhancing coordination by further strengthening the resident coordinator system, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and common administrative services at the country level.

48. **Mr. Alibabaee** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided a unique opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the Organization's development activities; determine system-wide policy guidelines; and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations system in advancing sustainable development.

49. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity, self-reliance and economic indcpendence, and therefore required the support of the United Nations system. South-South and triangular cooperation were based on national sovereignty, complete equality, mutual respect and benefit, and the exchange of best practices.

50. His delegation welcomed the recent decision to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and looked forward to tangible measures to strengthen its human and financial resources. He hoped that the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General for submission to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation would address that topic.

51. His country had enjoyed rapid progress and had the potential for stable and solid growth. It had developed cordial and close cooperation with other countries of the South. However, owing to lack of infrastructure, economic ties had not developed on an equal footing with political relations. The Islamic Republic of Iran had, nevertheless, contributed to projects in numerous developing countries.

52. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his country was concerned at the decline in core resources for development, imbalance between core and non-core resources, continued unfulfilled commitments for official development assistance, and the need to increase funding of operational activities for development. Those activities should maintain their neutrality, multilateralism and ability to act flexibly, coherently and effectively in line with national plans and priorities.

53. Trinidad and Tobago was host to the United Nations Development Programme and eight other United Nations agencies, and constantly sought greater synergy between their activities and the national development agenda. It was currently reviewing the effectiveness of United Nations operations in order to improve coordination and secure common premises for United Nations agencies.

54. Middle-income developing countries such as his own faced a range of challenges and were home to almost three quarters of the world's poor. The United Nations development system must address their needs, taking into account their structural challenges. The particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States also required attention. The regional commissions and their subregional offices played a vital role in ensuring that the nature and quality of assistance were appropriate. Staff expertise should, as far as possible, be tailored to the particular needs of each country.

55. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should strike a balance between assessing the actions taken thus far and looking forward to emerging challenges.

56. **Mr. Rachmianto** (Indonesia) said that the quadrennial review should provide strategic guidance

in order to improve the delivery of assistance at all levels in the light of emerging economic realities. United Nations development activities should act as a complement to national efforts. They should respond in a tailored manner to the varied needs, priorities and strategies of Member States. They should be aimed at strengthening national capacities, and their impact should be consistently measured and assessed.

57. The functioning of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should reflect the changing landscape of international development cooperation. In particular, balanced geographic and gender representation had taken on a new importance in view of the increasingly prominent role of developing countries. The resident coordinator system should receive institutional and financial support, but the transaction costs resulting from coordination activities should be minimized. Measures to streamline administrative procedures should be accelerated.

58. In order to respond better to the growing needs of Member States, the United Nations development system would need adequate, sustainable and predictable resources. Developed countries should therefore fulfil their official development assistance commitments. Greater incentives for donations to the core funding of operational activities should be in place, and efforts to broaden and diversify the donor base should be encouraged. Non-core funding should become more flexible and aligned with national priorities. Partnerships should be developed with the private sector and civil society in order to develop alternative financing for development, particularly from emerging economies.

59. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, in view of the prevailing economic turmoil and declining development assistance, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be negotiated on the basis of reality on the ground rather than the bargaining positions of Member States. In cooperation with the United Nations system, his Government had launched the pilot project of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in order to define its cooperation with 20 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

60. The quadrennial review would coincide with the conclusion of the "Delivering as one" pilot phase. His delegation hoped that the findings of the independent evaluation of that process would continue to inform the review. The countries that had undergone a pilot programme clearly wished to maintain the "Delivering as one" model, which had been adopted by other countries since its inception in 2007. It would be unfortunate if the review did not take their choice into account. The resident coordinator system should be strengthened, as should national ownership and leadership of development programmes. Progress made at the country level should be replicated at Headquarters.

61. Funding for operational activities should take into consideration their fundamental characteristics, which were, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism. Accountability, transparency and a focus on results were all essential. His country had held successful consultations in the light of its national policy framework under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The country-led and independent evaluation of the "Delivering as one" programme had highlighted successful examples of the harmonization of business practices. It had also, however, drawn attention to the need to improve working methods. The role of the resident coordinator should similarly be articulated in the course of negotiations. Lastly, the United Nations system should be able to tailor its approach to the needs, realities, priorities and planning modalities of each country, while acting within a holistic and comprehensive concept of development.

62. **Mr. Oguntuyi** (Nigeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2010" (A/67/94-E/2012/80) had drawn attention to the growing imbalance between unrestricted core resources and highly fragmented non-core funding. Funding of operational activities had been unpredictable, unreliable and unstable, with negative implications for overall programme coherence, efficiency and transaction costs. He urged the international community to remain committed to the fundamental principles governing those activities. There was a need for a strengthened global partnership for development, based on national ownership and the voluntary adoption of the "Delivering as one" model, and factoring in each country's national needs, priorities and planning modalities. The Bretton Woods institutions should be comprehensively reformed, becoming more transparent, consultative, inclusive and

responsive to the particular needs of developing countries.

63. Because declining official development assistance had hindered the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, Nigeria urged developed countries to honour their commitments in a timely manner and enhance market access for goods and services from developing countries.

64. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity and unity, and defined the common goals and aspirations of developing countries. It was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. In order to strengthen it further, the international community should fully embrace the framework and principles contained in the Yamoussoukro Consensus. His delegation welcomed the recent decision to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Concrete measures should now be taken to further strengthen the Office and fully integrate South-South cooperation in United Nations policies and programmes.

65. His own country had built constructive relations with several major emerging markets in order to diversify its economy, which had thus far been dependent on oil. The Nigeria Technical Cooperation Fund, under the management of the African Development Bank, had implemented several aid projects in Africa. His country also had a technical aid corps that provided assistance to other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Lastly, Nigeria was an active participant in a scientific and technical exchange programme that drew on the expertise of African researchers and offered partnerships in the use of research facilities across African countries.

66. **Mr. Dabiré** (Burkina Faso) said that while the coherence of United Nations activities had improved significantly, the role of resident coordinators and of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be strengthened in order better to foster country-level synergies. The lessons learned from the relatively successful "Delivering as one" initiative should also be incorporated into the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The Economic and Social Council had held a fruitful discussion on the review at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2012.

67. South-South cooperation had made considerable progress over the previous three years. The countries of the South were increasingly adept at political governance, socioeconomic management, environmental protection, promotion of commerce and investment, but their knowledge was unevenly distributed. The sharing of best practices had helped to tackle economic challenges, particularly in least developed countries. The emerging economies could play a greater role in supporting the efforts of fragile economies in low-income countries.

68. The main obstacle to South-South cooperation remained lack of resources. There was therefore a need to strengthen triangular cooperation mechanisms in support of development activities. South-South and triangular cooperation should not, however, be an excuse for the countries of the North to avoid their international commitments. His delegation welcomed the renaming of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and hoped that the Office would receive the necessary resources.

69. **Mr. Kitchadeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should address the concerns and needs of programme countries, particularly the least developed countries and the list of landlocked developing countries. United Nations operational activities for development should be enhanced, taking into consideration national policies and priorities. The quadrennial review should promote the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of those activities, providing increased and predictable resources in order to address the imbalance of core and non-core funding.

70. The effective implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework reflected the cohesion and harmony of country-level activities, whose main duty was to support national programmes. His Government and the relevant United Nations agencies were implementing the third cycle of the Framework, which coincided with the seventh national socioeconomic development plan (2012-2015). The goals of the two processes were closely interrelated. Their ultimate goal was to ensure that, by 2020, the Lao People's Democratic Republic was no longer a least developed country. The partnership allowed the Government to guide and shape the support of the United Nations, thereby strengthening its ownership of the development agenda. On its own initiative, his

Government was committed to becoming a "Delivering as one" self-starter country and promoting a strong resident coordinator's office.

71. The planning process of the Framework was time-consuming, and countries should be allowed the flexibility to ensure that the process and final plan were practical. The Framework had been intended to reduce transaction costs, simplifying the agencies' workload and enabling governments to deal with a single programming, review and reporting process. However, the continuation of agency-specific requirements from Headquarters impeded that aim.

72. **Mr. Lakhal** (Tunisia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be ambitious and lead to a stronger role for United Nations operational activities. The latter should retain their universal, voluntary and grant nature and neutrality. They should be able to respond flexibly to the needs of developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their needs. The United Nations development system should have an enhanced role in supporting national development efforts, including by facilitating access to new technologies and tackling persistent and emerging challenges such as unemployment.

73. In order to fulfil its mandate in a coherent, effective and efficient manner, United Nations operational activities for development required an effective mechanism ensuring both quality and quantity of funds. His delegation therefore noted with concern the declining trend in total contributions to the United Nations development system and the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding. Donors should increase their voluntary contributions to the core regular budget and ensure that their funding was more stable, predictable, effective and efficient.

74. The quadrennial review should recognize the particular and diverse needs of each developing country, respecting national ownership, sovereignty and cultural specificities. The specific experience of individual United Nations finds, programmes and agencies should be recognized and fully integrated into operational activities. Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams should consult more with relevant stakeholders, under the leadership of national governments, in order to ensure that United Nations planning was aligned with national needs and priorities. The review should simplify and harmonize country-level programming instruments in order to improve flexibility and reduce transaction costs for governments and other partners.

75. Since the revolution of January 2011, Tunisia had been undergoing an important political and economic transition with widespread support from the international community and United Nations system. His country deeply appreciated that support and looked forward to enhanced cooperation and successful reforms.

76. **Mr. Bermeo** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that parliamentarians could act as a development partner in their own right. Parliamentarians adopted budgets for development cooperation, including appropriations for United Nations operations, and monitored accountability on behalf of citizens. The Inter-Parliamentary Union worked closely with the United Nations to involve parliamentarians in field work and in the Development Cooperation Forum, the aid effectiveness process led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the steering committee of the nascent Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

77. In order better to understand United Nations field operations and the "Delivering as one" initiative, a parliamentary advisory group to the International Parliamentary Union Committee on United Nations Affairs had visited several countries and met with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams, Government representatives and other stakeholders. The advisory group had found that United Nations field operations already had direct interaction with national parliaments at all levels and in all areas. The group had highlighted the need for resident coordinators and country teams to regularly update national parliaments on the overall picture of United Nations operations in the country; ensure that parliamentarians were invited to reviews and evaluations of those operations; appoint a focal point for parliaments; develop clear and uniform guidelines on how to interact with parliament; and ensure overall coordination of United Nations assistance to the parliament. Those measures would support national ownership and foster implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/261 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

78. Despite their potential role in supporting national ownership of development, funding for capacity development remained disproportionately skewed against parliaments. The Union therefore looked forward to greater operational cooperation with the United Nations system and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme.

79. **Ms. Manente** (World Food Programme (WFP)) said that the World Food Programme participated in South-South and triangular cooperation by supporting governments' efforts to manage food programmes. For example, with the leadership and support of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, the World Food Programme had established a World Food Programme Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brasilia in 2011. It had conducted 16 study visits in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as receiving visits from stakeholder ministries, which had promoted South-South policy dialogue and the building of regional peer networks.

80. The World Food Programme had also facilitated cooperation between Chile, Honduras and Guatemala to determine a joint work plan on food and nutritional security for 2012-2013. Along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Governments of Brazil and Mozambique, the Programme was a participant in the Purchase from Africans for Africa initiative, which was intended to boost the income of small-scale farmers. More recently, the Programme had organized a visit of Palestinian Authority officials to Egypt.

81. Contributions from Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa to the agency's programme countries had grown from $8.7 million in 2002 to over $140 million in 2011. South-South cooperation had further been advanced through the practice of combining food contributions from one country with the cash commitment of a partner government. For example, South Africa had provided funds to transport and distribute over 200 tons of sugar donated by Cuba to Haiti. The World Food Programme was pursuing other South-South cooperation initiatives with China and the Republic of Korea.

82. **Mr. Assaf** (United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Development) said that the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity was intended to coordinate the work of various United Nations entities in relation to aid for trade, the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. By coordinating technical assistance at the national and regional levels, it had helped to enhance system-wide coherence. The Cluster had coordinated actions linking trade to employment policy, food security concerns and trade negotiations, environmental goals and industrial policies, support for export and investment. United Nations regional commissions participated in the Cluster in order to ensure that regional perspectives were taken into account. By acting together, United Nations entities could better align their activities with national development strategies.

83. The post-2015 development agenda should become the driving force behind United Nations joint programmes for development assistance. Donor support for such programmes, particularly through multi-partner trust funds, would be critical in order for United Nations agencies to provide sustainable, predictable and timely assistance.

84. **Mr. Elkeiy** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that the Doha Mandate agreed at the thirteenth session of UNCTAD (TD/500/Add.1) had reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development, and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. It had stressed that South-South cooperation, as a complement but not a substitute for North-South cooperation, was a positive aspect of international cooperation for developing countries to expand their growth and development potential. UNCTAD had therefore been requested to continue its research and its technical support programme.

85. UNCTAD had been actively promoting South-South cooperation since the 1960s, and was therefore in a unique position to provide a balanced and reliable picture of the issue in order to develop productive capacities and promote coherence in commercial, financial and technological exchanges. The establishment in 2009 of the UNCTAD Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries had given fresh impetus to its work in that area. Relevant reports issued by UNCTAD included the economic development in Africa report 2010, entitled "South-South Cooperation: Africa and the

New Forms of Development Partnership" (UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2010), the least developed countries report 2011, entitled "The Potential Role of South-South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development" (UNCTAD/LDC/2011), the creative economy report 2010 (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB2010/3), and a recent report on the rise of the South, which discussed the potential impact of emerging countries on the international system and the challenges and opportunities arising from South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

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later: Mr. Islam (Vice-Chair) ..... (Bangladesh)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/67/88-E/2012/75, A/67/88/Corr.1-E/2012/75/Corr.1, A/67/92 and A/67/262)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (A/67/210 and A/67/386)

1. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020 (A/67/88), said that, according to the report, economic growth in the least developed countries had picked up significantly in the past decade but their economic activity continued to be vulnerable to exogenous shocks. With no meaningful structural changes in their economies, natural resource-based sources accounted for a growing share of their gross domestic product (GDP). Progress in building infrastructure and access to energy had been mixed and, despite a reduction in the rate of poverty, the incidence of poverty and hunger was still the greatest challenge in those countries, where the proportion of the undernourished stood at 30 per cent. Food insecurity was particularly acute in the Sahel. Although the least developed countries' share in global trade had increased, much of that growth had been driven by the boom in exports of minerals, commodities and low-skill manufactured goods. Stringent rules of origin, preference erosion and non-tariff barriers had limited the effectiveness of preferential market-access schemes.

2. Although most least developed countries had made important strides towards universal primary education, gender equality and empowerment goals, their maternal, child and infant mortality rates and HIV prevalence rates remained high. Least developed countries affected by conflict had in many cases been unable to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Reducing the debt burden of least developed countries and other vulnerable countries required continued international efforts. Since those countries depended heavily on official development assistance (ODA), development partners should deliver on their commitments despite the economic and financial crisis. Implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) would contribute to achieving the development aspirations of the Istanbul Programme of Action, whose priority areas (economic growth, environmental protection and social development) had been integrated into the Rio+20 outcome. In order to ensure sustainability, development partners should continue to support progress in countries graduating from the least-developed-country category. Extending or only gradually phasing out specific financial, technical and trade support for all such countries could help them to formulate, implement and monitor smooth transition strategies.

3. The Istanbul Programme of Action priority areas were increasingly reflected in the national development plans of least developed countries and donors' strategic documents. A number of countries had also supported the least developed countries in the context of South-South cooperation. The Office of the High Representative, the United Nations system and other international organizations had agreed on the content of a road map for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including the formulation of a set of monitoring indicators and the establishment of a corresponding working group.

4. In discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, the issues of resilience, structural transformation, development of productive capacity, equity and environmental sustainability should be considered in the context of the specific challenges faced by the least developed countries and other countries. The least developed countries should continue to take the lead on those issues and the development partners should support them. National ownership, capacity-building and institutional development should complement the expansion of South-South cooperation.

5. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for

the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries (A/67/262), he said that, after describing the genesis and development of the Office of the High Representative, the report highlighted the need for better coordination of programme delivery and recommended that the United Nations system should scale up assistance to least developed countries in a timely, long-term, predictable and flexible manner; that existing inter-agency consultative group mechanisms should be institutionalized within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes; and that the capacity and scope of operations of his office should be enhanced.

6. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries" (A/67/210), he said that, although the rate of economic growth of landlocked developing countries as a group had more than doubled in 2010, that increase had been largely due to rising commodity prices and export demand in 2011, the rate had decelerated. Despite some advances in net primary enrolment, gender parity in primary education, representation of women in decision-making, and the stemming of the spread of HIV/AIDS, progress in reducing hunger, poverty and child and maternal mortality and in improving access to sanitation had been slow.

7. Regarding the priority areas of the Almaty Programme of Action, substantial progress had been achieved in developing regional and subregional agreements between landlocked developing countries and their neighbouring countries on the harmonization of transport and transit policies, laws, procedures and practices. However, deeper and broader cooperation was needed in order to reduce the costs and shorten the time frames of transactions with landlocked developing countries. While transport infrastructure had been upgraded and expanded in all regions, all funding sources — including national budgets, regional and international development assistance and the private sector — must be harnessed in order to promote further investment in that area.

8. The landlocked developing countries must diversify their export base, enhance their processing capacities in order to add value to their exports and make a greater effort to specialize in services not subject to transit obstacles. The successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round was of utmost importance to them, particularly in the area of trade facilitation. Although ODA flows and aid for trade disbursements had increased, landlocked developing countries as a group had experienced a 12 per cent decrease in foreign direct investment (FDI).

9. The ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action was a major undertaking of the entire international community. Accordingly, all stakeholders should actively engage in the preparatory process for the conference.

10. The report concluded with a number of recommendations by the Secretary-General aimed at facilitating the integration of the landlocked developing countries into the world economy through investment in infrastructure, simplification of transit procedures and greater market access.

11. **Mr. Dgacta** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern that least developed countries were lagging behind in meeting many of the MDGs and called for full, timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to enable at least half of those countries to meet graduation criteria by 2020 through a renewed partnership for development. The least developed countries should base their policy choices on their own priorities, with enhanced, predictable and targeted support from the development partners; the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions; other multilateral institutions; regional development banks; and other stakeholders. He called for debt relief through cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debts of least developed countries, duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries and easier accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in accordance with the principles of special and differential treatment.

12. Specific action was needed to address the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries in line with the outcome of the 2003 International Ministerial Conference of

Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. As progress achieved by landlocked developing countries before the financial crisis was at risk, full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action was more urgent than ever. The international community must enhance the flow of public and private investment and of development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them to overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set out on a path of sustainable social and economic development. Better coordination was needed in addressing the priorities of the Programme of Action and those identified in the midterm review, particularly regarding the construction, maintenance and improvement of transport, storage and other transit-related facilities.

13. Welcoming the decision to hold a 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, he said that regional, global and thematic preparations for it should be well structured and broadly participatory.

14. The Group of 77 and China took note of the outcome of the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries and the High-level Global Thematic Meeting on International Trade, Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade, held in Almaty in September.

15. **Mr. Gaspard** (Haiti), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), endorsed the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Benin on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries. The aim of the Istanbul Programme of Action to halve the number of least developed countries within 10 years presupposed resolving their structural problems, by, inter alia, increasing productive capacity. Economic growth, higher employment and effective solutions to the food, energy and economic crises, and to climate change, were all prerequisites to graduating from least-developed-country status.

16. Reaffirming the importance of some of the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action — namely productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; human and social development; multiple crises and emerging challenges; and mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building — he said that increased technology transfer and financial support, as well as follow-up mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, would be vital to ensuring the mutual fulfilment of commitments. The least developed countries had pledged to incorporate the Programme of Action goals into their development plans; development partners and the United Nations system must also incorporate them into their international cooperation plans.

17. Since the earthquake in January 2010, Haiti —the only least developed country in the Americas — had been promoting regional recovery through better land management and environmental development, electrification, water services, sanitation and national connectivity. It was rebuilding its economy by modernizing its agricultural, livestock and fishery sectors and developing industries and services. To revamp its social system, it was upgrading the educational system and promoting gender equality. Institution-building and decentralization were other key components of its recovery programme. Those ambitious objectives were realistic and in line with internationally agreed development goals, especially those of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

18. Landlocked and transit developing countries needed increased, timely and sustainable financial support in order to attain the MDGs and build their capacity to adapt to climate change. With additional funding, they would also be able to implement energy, transport and transit infrastructure, and information and communication technology projects; facilitate trade with other landlocked and transit developing countries; strengthen intraregional networks; and ensure the effective functioning of strategic maritime trade corridors.

19. Developed countries should expand market access and technology transfer to landlocked developing countries in order to lower their transaction costs. Foreign direct investment in those countries was also crucial. Contributions by donor countries and international financing and development institutions should be paid into the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference.

20. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),

endorsed the statement made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. All stakeholders needed to accelerate efforts to fulfil renewed political commitments and obligations to the least developed countries in order to enable them to graduate from least-developed-country status by 2020. Action on the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action would be of particular importance to that end.

21. Despite notable progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action — thanks to the efforts of the landlocked developing countries and the cooperation of development partners and the United Nations system — further review of regulatory frameworks for transit transportation and trade facilitation, greater investment in transit transport infrastructure, and enhanced harmonization of transport standards and logistical capacity were needed. Landlocked developing countries, with assistance from their development partners, must strategically transform their economies and build their productive capacities. ASEAN welcomed the decision to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 66/214, para. 21).

22. As its members included both least developed countries and one landlocked developing country, ASEAN was committed to continued economic growth and improved connectivity among its members and with the rest of the world. To that end, ASEAN had developed and implemented various initiatives, programmes and work plans, including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. In 2011, ASEAN and the Asian Development Bank had jointly launched the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, a mechanism for pooling savings and leveraging financing for infrastructure development within the region. Moreover, ASEAN had adopted the Brunei Action Plan/ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan 2011-2015 for transport cooperation and integration towards the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

23. **Mr. Khitchadeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, called for the widest possible recognition and understanding by the international community of the specific developmental challenges and special needs of landlocked developing countries. Any relevant action should be fully and effectively implemented in a timely manner by all stakeholders. Only firm political will and sufficient support measures, including financial support, would make that possible. As the landlocked developing countries were not by themselves in a position to overcome their marginalization, subregional, regional, South-South and triangular cooperation frameworks, as well as North-South cooperation, would be key to building productive capacities and developing infrastructure in order to enhance regional integration.

24. Although progress had been made in many areas, more genuine cooperation and partnership at the bilateral, regional and global levels, and enhanced support, FDI flows and technology transfer were needed in order to help the landlocked developing countries overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and productive capacities and embark on a path of sustainable growth. The comprehensive ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 would provide a major opportunity for landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners to develop a new action-oriented strategic framework for the next decade. Lastly, the current Almaty agenda should be enhanced to take into account challenges and opportunities that had not yet been apparent at the time of the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2003. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries hoped the international community would actively contribute to the preparatory process and the review conference.

25. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, endorsed the statements made by the representatives of Cameroon and Algeria on behalf of, respectively, the Group of African States and the Group of 77 and China. He said that implementation of the MDGs, the Istanbul Programme of Action and the sustainable development goals was critical from the least developed countries. Most least developed countries continued to grapple with enormous economic, human and social development challenges due to structural constraints and particular vulnerabilities. Poverty and hunger, food insecurity, investment uncertainty, commodity price volatility, financial fragility, high energy costs and climate change hampered this progress at all levels, and yet official development assistance had decreased in 2011.

26. The Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries, adopted in New York on 27 September 2012, clearly reaffirmed the commitment to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action by, inter alia, integrating its provisions into national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders. However, in order to build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing, services, infrastructure development and structural transformation, the development partners of least developed countries must fulfil their commitments at the earliest in a predictable manner. In that connection, the Group of Least Developed Countries endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/88). Moreover, it was vital to ensure a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status, without any disruption of development plans, programmes and projects. Accordingly, the Group called for the adoption of an effective strategy to that end by the General Assembly at its current session.

27. He stressed the importance of extending the mandate of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to include effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and invited the Secretary-General to address the issue of providing staff and financial resources commensurate with the work that needed to be done. The Group wished to reiterate its support for the institutionalization of inter-agency mechanisms to follow up the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. It called upon the international community to increase voluntary contributions in order to enable the Office of the High Representative to meet its responsibilities regarding such implementation.

28. *Mr. Islam (Bangladesh), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

29. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the commitment of the European Union and its member States to least developed countries and landlocked developing countries on the heels of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had led to specific action. Thus, regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the European Union and its member States had met their commitment to channel 0.15 per cent of gross national income as ODA to the least developed countries through bilateral and regional programmes undertaken in partnership with the countries concerned. It would focus its unilateral trade preferences on the most vulnerable countries and on key sectors, including energy, agriculture and bond security. The European Union would also continue to offer duty-free and quota-free access to its market for all products of least developed countries (except arms and ammunition). While the European Union and its member States would continue to provide the least developed countries with increasingly focused aid for trade, what was really needed was a jointly defined path which would go beyond that to seek broader policy coherence with a view to development.

30. The European Union was actively involved in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Further Study and Strengthen the Smooth Transition Process for the Countries Graduating from the Least Developed Country Category. The work ahead should focus on a predictable and orderly phasing out of post-graduation benefits. He strongly encouraged trading partners, including emerging economies and developing countries in a position to do so, to maintain market access benefits for a well-defined period after graduation. Transition strategies must be tailored to each country's particular context, opportunities and vulnerabilities in the framework of improved coordination and coherence of existing programmes. Moreover, the European Union and its member States were determined to accompany the landlocked developing countries in overcoming the specific challenges they faced. It looked forward to fruitful negotiations on the modalities of the comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action so as to ensure a focused and efficient process towards the best possible outcome.

31. In conclusion, he noted the synergies between the follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and

the Istanbul Programme of Action, which should be addressed in a coherent manner.

32. **Ms. Medvedeva** (Russian Federation) said that in addition to increasing its contribution to international development assistance, the Russian Federation was promoting efforts to enhance the international trade of the least developed countries and to strengthen global food security, including through the development of innovative technologies. The least developed countries still needed to enhance their industrial capacity and investment in infrastructure, including transboundary facilities; create effective national mechanisms to support investment; and develop entrepreneurship and a microfinance system. In the spirit of the Almaty Programme of Action, the Russian Federation promoted the development of partner relations with countries in north-eastern Asia under the Greater Tumen Initiative, particularly in the area of transport infrastructure linking Mongolia, the north-eastern provinces of China, the major transport hubs of the Republic of Korea and Japan, and Russian ports. The term ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action should, inter alia, facilitate the further operationalization of global partnerships for transport to and from landlocked developing countries through transit countries.

33. **Mr. Dhital** (Nepal) said that given the heavy dependence of the least developed countries on international support to finance their development activities, the reduction in 2011 of bilateral ODA in real terms gave grounds for concern. The overall flow of resources to the least developed countries should be aligned and commensurate with their structural vulnerabilities and multiple challenges — geographical handicaps, declining FDI, high rates of inflation and unemployment, a limited number of commodities for export, dependence on energy imports, and a high level of poverty and hunger — and addressed through the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The ten-year review conference in 2014 should produce a post-Almaty development agenda enabling landlocked developing countries to join and fully participate in the global trading system. He stressed the need for integrating the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries into all United Nations processes. Nepal's situation called for unfettered access to the sea through improved transit transport, including a multi-modal network. At the national level, Nepal had upgraded its transit and transport facilitation agency in order to meet current requirements.

34. **Mr. Bathija** (Afghanistan) said that, unless concerted and resolute action was taken, the short-term impacts of food, energy and financial crises would have long-term adverse effects on the least developed countries. There was thus an urgent need to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action. ODA provided a vital boost to national development efforts but donor countries must respect the principle of national ownership and improve the coordination, transparency and predictability of aid. A rapid and successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round would make a significant difference in the development of the least developed countries. Climate change and environmental degradation constituted the greatest threat to the progress of countries in special situations. Drought in Afghanistan and African countries would pose an obstacle to achieving Goals 1 and 7 on poverty and hunger eradication and environmental sustainability, respectively. In accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, Afghanistan called on all countries to take immediate action to fulfil their climate change mitigation commitments. Developed countries should also fulfil their technology transfer and funding pledges in order to help the least developed countries achieve clean and sustainable growth. Technical assistance was needed for further development of communications and transport infrastructure. In post-conflict countries in particular, development and security went hand in hand; the development of natural resources should not exacerbate existing tensions. Conversely, international and regional efforts to improve the standard of living and enhance security could have synergistic effects. Accordingly, regional cooperation should be strengthened in the areas of security and development.

35. **Mr. Narkhuu** (Mongolia) said that, although the landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with their transit neighbours and with the support of their development partners, had achieved some progress and strengthened their policy reform and ODA allocated to their transport and communication infrastructure had improved, considerable challenges remained. Those challenges — linked to their remoteness from international markets and the effects of the recent multiple crises — had major implications for their social and environmental development.

36. The international community and research institutions should develop a set of vulnerability indicators for early warning purposes, as proposed in General Assembly resolution 66/214, paragraph 11, and for building resilience in connection with economic, trade, social and environmental issues. As high transaction costs were largely responsible for the marginalization of the landlocked developing countries, their products deserved particular attention. In addition to the trade facilitation negotiations within the context of the Doha Development Round, the international community should take into consideration relevant measures in accordance with the Almaty Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of landlocked developing countries held in September. He proposed an expeditious implementation of the Aid for Trade initiative with targeted support for landlocked developing countries in such areas as capacity-building in formulating trade policies, implementation of trade facilitation measures and international agreements, investment in transport infrastructure, and strengthening productive capacity.

37. Mongolia had set up a national committee on trade and transport facilitation, composed of representatives of the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); implemented a comprehensive sector development programme entitled "Transit Mongolia" in line with the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action; and carried out a customs modernization project. Those landlocked developing countries that had not yet done so should accede to or ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries to be hosted by Mongolia.

38. In conclusion, he said that Mongolia was prepared to collaborate with other delegations to draft a resolution on preparations for the 2014 review conference.

39. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that the integration of least developed countries into the global economy was contingent upon the fulfilment of the development partners' ODA commitments, cancellation of all outstanding debt, increased investment flows, unhindered market access and technology transfer. The Doha Development Round should be expeditiously concluded and deliver, inter alia, duty-free and quota-free market access and support for capacity-building in the least developed countries. The least developed countries were even being marginalized in South-South trade. Developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so should grant duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from least developed countries under the early harvest measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The international community must address the development challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, taking into account the national sovereignty of all countries involved. Transit developing countries could play a crucial role in overcoming the difficulties encountered by landlocked developing countries, in the framework of a transparent transit-costs agreement based on mutual trust, cooperation and comparative advantages.

40. **Mr. Enge** (Brazil), noting that landlocked developing countries faced a set of particular challenges that required specific responses, called for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to hold a ten-year review conference. Although the least developed countries as a whole had experienced greater economic growth than in the previous decade, Brazil was concerned at the uneven and insufficient progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, especially with respect to alleviating poverty, combating hunger, achieving gender equality and reducing maternal mortality.

41. The global financial and economic crisis had affected the developing countries in general, and least developed countries in particular, as a result of both reduced demand in the developed countries and declining ODA. There was a need for timely and targeted international and regional support to complement national efforts to build resilience in the face of economic shocks. Brazil had developed many cooperation projects to offset the vulnerability of agriculture-dependent least developed countries to land degradation, drought, desertification, deforestation, water and air pollution and climate change, compounded by scant funding for research and technology or to improve techniques, poor infrastructure and unfavourable regulatory frameworks. Through its agricultural research corporation in Ghana and other programmes, Brazil was supporting the commodities sector in least developed countries — it

had launched an antiretroviral medicine factory in Mozambique as part of its effort to address the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the least developed countries. Its Carrefour-Feuilles project in Haiti was emblematic of the support it provided to least developed countries and post-conflict countries through the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund.

42. Brazil was finalizing a legal instrument on a duty-free, quota-free scheme for least developed countries. Its Ministry of External Relations, together with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, was providing training in international trade to Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste.

43. Brazil participated actively in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Further Study and Strengthen the Smooth Transition Process for the Countries Graduating from the Least Developed Country Category. A more institutionalized package of support measures for graduating countries was needed to guard against reversals in development after graduation. Brazil's commitment to supporting recently graduated least developed countries was illustrated by its ties and cooperation with Cape Verde, which had only strengthened since the graduation process. It hoped to replicate that experience with other countries.

44. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia remained committed to the success of the Istanbul Programme of Action through South-South cooperation and endeavoured to assist least developed countries in attaining the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals by 2015 and beyond. The role of developed countries as development partners was as crucial as least developed country ownership and leadership in formulating policies based on their national priorities, conditions and requirements. More than 25,000 participants from 140 countries had benefited from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) since its inception in 1980, including 10,000 participants from 45 least developed countries and former least developed countries. Malaysia welcomed triangular cooperation involving developed partners and recipient countries as part of South-South cooperation. In that framework, Malaysia had cooperated with Governments and institutions in various countries under the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) to offer short courses to participants from developing countries, including the least developed countries. Lastly, he welcomed the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Further Study and Strengthen the Smooth Transition Process for the Countries Graduating from the Least Developed Country Category.

45. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that while the least developed countries bore primary responsibility for financing their own development, support from development partners through enhanced market access, reduction of non-tariff barriers and other trade distorting measures, aid for trade and FDI was equally vital. Ethiopia had mainstreamed the Istanbul Programme of Action into its five-year development plan, known as the Growth and Transformation Plan, and had established reporting, monitoring, reviewing and evaluation mechanisms to follow up its implementation. Its aim was to join the group of middle income countries by 2020. With an average growth in GDP of 11.4 per cent in the period 2004-2011, Ethiopia was making an effort to diversify its economy; in the past two years, the percentage share of agriculture had decreased and the share of industry was now larger. Productive capacity in the road and railway transport, energy and telecommunication sectors had increased substantially. Ethiopia had also embarked on a green economy strategy in order to promote sustainable development and had made progress towards achieving the MDGs, particularly by expanding and improving education and health services.

46. The least developed countries needed to make massive investments in infrastructure, build their productive capacities and increase outlays on human development. At the same time, development partners should fulfil their ODA and other commitments and provide additional resources to the least developed countries. Mobilization of the resources required for infrastructure development remained a major challenge for landlocked developing countries. Consequently, the international community, development partners and multilateral development institutions should furnish the financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to enable them cope with external shocks and mitigate emerging challenges.

47. **Ms. McGowen** (United States of America) pointed out that, although the least developed countries had experienced relatively strong growth over the

preceding decade, progress had varied by both country and sector. On their current trajectories, many least developed countries would not meet the MDGs. Over and above ODA, on which they had relied in the past, the least developed countries needed to mobilize domestic financial resources, attract private investment from abroad and form broader partnerships with emerging and traditional donor economies. Countries that emphasized transparency and democratic accountability would be more successful in attracting foreign investment and unlocking domestic financing. And those that strove to include women, youth and disadvantaged groups in their economies would experience broader and more sustainable economic prosperity. The United States — which had provided $10 billion in development assistance to least developed countries in 2011 — joined others in recognizing the need for a smooth transition so that graduation from the least developed country category would not disrupt development cooperation. Advance planning between recipient countries near graduation and their development partners would mitigate the risk of such disruption.

48. In order to reap the benefits of trade, landlocked developing countries should be able to move their goods to market safely and routinely. That process required infrastructure but, as the Almaty Programme of Action made clear, investments in infrastructure would only be as viable as the legal and regulatory systems underpinning them. In 2012 alone, the United States had provided over $4.8 billion in assistance to landlocked developing countries and would continue to help them. However, the most important partners of the landlocked developing countries remained their transit developing country neighbours. The United States was committed to ensuring that the ten-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 would be a success and would lead to a broader and deeper partnership in support of the landlocked developing countries.

49. **Mr. Kumar** (India) said that, in four decades, only three least developed countries had been able to graduate from least developed country status. In order to improve that situation, the international community should integrate least developed countries into global governance, and work to end their physical and developmental disconnect with the world. India had never promoted the concept of a global village but, in accordance with its ancient scriptures, had always believed in the concept of a global family. A village could be subject to inequality and discrimination — between rich and poor, for instance — while the family was governed solely by the principle of live and let live, mutual love, and equal care for all members.

50. Poverty eradication must be a key component of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, and adequate resources must be mobilized to fill the huge financing for development gap in the least developed countries. In that connection, India called on donor countries to urgently fulfil their ODA commitments of 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNI for the least developed countries. He stressed the importance of technology transfer, capacity-building, enhanced economic support measures, duty-free and quota-free market access schemes and a development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round in bringing the least developed countries closer to graduation.

51. As part of South-South cooperation, India's partnership with the least developed countries had gone beyond technical assistance to include trade, investment and humanitarian support. Its duty-free tariff preference scheme, lines of credit and Aid for Trade programmes had led to significant expansion of its trade with least developed countries. It had also set up a $1 billion line of credit to support implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Moreover, India engaged in special bilateral cooperation agreements with its landlocked neighbours to facilitate transit of their goods and attached priority to further strengthening its ties with those countries, including through regional initiatives. India stood committed to meeting the critical infrastructure needs of the landlocked developing countries, offering $300 million in financial assistance to construct the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway line.

52. India had never subscribed to the philosophy of maximizing happiness for the majority of people but had always stood for happiness for everyone in the world. He invited the international community to work towards making such happiness possible.

53. **Mr. Versegi** (Australia) said that the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Rio+20 outcome document contained a set of commitments that must not be taken lightly. Australia was increasing its ODA and recognized that sustainable agriculture and prudent management of natural resources were crucial to

sustainable economic growth and development of the least developed countries.

54. Referring to the issue of a smooth transition for graduating States, he said that Australia welcomed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group. As a significant development and trading partner of many least developed countries, Australia was committed to cooperating with them in order to avoid abrupt reductions in financial and technical assistance and trade preferences, and to ensuring their long-term development. Australia supported efforts to improve opportunities for graduating countries and create stronger incentives for graduation. As more and more countries moved towards meeting the criteria for graduation, Australia stood ready to participate in preparing smooth transition strategies to meet their specific needs and to help maintain their development momentum.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.